

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2001-758

January 22, 2003

Donna Morton et al., Request for
Waiver of the Basic Service Calling
Area Rule, Chapter 204: To
Expand The Local Calling Area of
Maine Telephone Company's
Casco Exchange

ORDER APPROVING
COMPLIANCE PLAN BY MAINE
AND STANDISH TELEPHONE
COMPANIES

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

On September 12, 2002, the PUC granted, in part, the request by various customers of Maine and Standish telephone companies for expansion of the Basic Service Calling Area for the Casco, Raymond, Naples, Sebago, and Bridgton exchanges. The Order required Maine Telephone Company, Standish Telephone Company (collectively referred to as "UI"), and Verizon-Maine (Verizon) to file proposed rates. In this Order we approve the rate design proposed by UI on December 18, 2002.

UI provided initial proposed rates and other information on October 28, 2002, and follow-up information on November 19, 2002. Staff reviewed the data and supporting documentation. UI initially proposed to collect its total estimated rate impact of the ordered expansion. Staff, however, believed that the difficulty in estimating "take-rates," economy option per-message charges, and the effects of decreasing access charges required that rates be revised from those originally proposed by UI. Based on these concerns, the Company submitted revised proposed rates on December 18, 2002. Under the proposal, revenues and revenue shortfalls or over-collections would be tracked in the Chapter 204 tracking account.¹

UI has now proposed the following rates for UI Casco, Naples, and Raymond exchanges:²

Residential Premium Option:	\$12.40 per month
Business Premium Option:	\$20.90
Residential Economy Option:	\$9.90
Business Economy Option:	\$18.40

¹ Tracking is not, by itself, determinative of whether any shortfall should be placed solely on the ratepayers in the exchanges that expand their BSCAs pursuant to this case or should be recovered from all ratepayers of the affected companies pursuant to company-wide rate adjustments that the companies might propose in conjunction with the addition of all contiguous exchanges required by the recent amendments to Chapter 204.

² Current UI monthly rates: Casco, Naples, Raymond (residential \$9.65, business \$17.90); Sebago (residential \$9.40, business \$20.25).

UI proposes the following rates for UI Sebago exchange:

Residential Premium Option:	\$12.15 per month
Business Premium Option:	\$23.25
Residential Economy Option:	\$9.65
Business Economy Option:	\$20.75

In addition, UI proposed a rate of \$.30 per call for calls made by customers subscribing to the Economy option to customers in exchanges within BSCAs but outside the flat-rate calling area of the Economy option. It proposed this rate prior to the effective date (December 16, 2002) of the recent changes to the BSCA rule, but those changes include the replacement of the prior rate for such calls of 25 cents per call with a rate of 5 cents a minute. At the technical conference held on January 14, 2003, to discuss the implementation of changes required by the Rule, participants raised a number of problems with implementing the 5-cent rate now rather than at the time that contiguous exchanges are added (duplicative notifications, customers wanting to consider the rate change in conjunction with BSCA and BSCA options changes). We therefore find it is appropriate to approve the 30-cent (per call) rate and grant a waiver from the revised requirement until contiguous exchanges are added.

The exchanges that are included, on a flat-rate basis, in the Economy and Premium Options are listed in Attachment A of the September 12, 2002, Commission Order Granting the waiver in this case. A revised version showing current calling areas and options and those ordered in this case is attached to this order as Attachment A.

Within 30 days of this Order, Standish and Maine Telephone Companies shall file rate schedules that implement the rates listed in this Order, with a proposed effective date as soon as possible, but on the same date that Verizon proposes its changes for the Bridgton exchange, that date to be determined after consultation with Verizon and, if necessary, the Commission Staff.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 22nd day of January, 2003.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Nugent
 Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within **21 days** of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.

1. Current BSCA

Home Exchange	Economy Calling Option	Premium Calling Option
Casco	Casco, Naples, Poland, Raymond	Casco, Naples, Poland, Raymond
Raymond	Raymond, Casco, Naples, Poland, Gray, West Gray	Raymond, Casco, Naples, Poland, Gray, West Gray
Poland	Poland, Casco, Lewiston, Raymond	Poland, Casco, Lewiston, Raymond, Naples
Naples	Naples, Casco, Poland, Raymond	Naples, Casco, Poland, Raymond
Sebago	Sebago	Sebago, plus OCP 30 miles
Bridgton	Bridgton, Harrison	Bridgton, Harrison
Harrison	Harrison, Bridgton, Norway	Harrison, Bridgton, Norway

2. Granted BSCA Changes (Changes from current BSCA are underlined)

Home Exchange	Economy Calling Option	Premium Calling Option
Casco	Casco, Naples, Poland, Raymond	Casco, Naples, Poland, Raymond, <u>Sebago, Bridgton</u>
Raymond	Raymond, Casco, Naples, Poland, Gray, West Gray	Raymond, Casco, Naples, Poland, Gray, West Gray, <u>Sebago, Bridgton</u>
Poland	Poland, Casco, Lewiston, Raymond	Poland, Casco, Lewiston, Raymond, Naples (<u>No exchanges added</u>)
Naples	Naples, Casco, Poland, Raymond	Naples, Casco, Poland, Raymond, <u>Sebago, Bridgton</u>
Sebago	Sebago	Sebago, <u>Naples, Casco, Raymond, Bridgton</u> plus OCP 30 miles
Bridgton	<u>Bridgton, Harrison</u>	Bridgton, Harrison <u>Naples, Casco, Raymond, Sebago</u>
Harrison	Harrison, Bridgton, Norway	Harrison, Bridgton, Norway (<u>No exchanges added, to be addressed by BSCA Rule</u>)